

# The Accounting Historians Notebook

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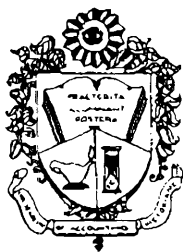
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# The Accounting Historians Notebook

Vol. 19, No. 1

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Spring, 1996

## COMMENTS ON DEVELOPMENT OF ACCOUNTANCY IN JAPAN AND THE JICPA: NOW FORTY-SEVEN YEARS OLD

by

Yoshiro Kimizuka

Independent accountancy, as a business, was not prevalent in Japan during the first half of the Twentieth Century. Bunjiro Otsubo opened his business in 1890 as the first Independent Accountant (IA). Bankruptcy of a large sugar-manufacturing company in 1909 suggested some need and movement to create an authoritative IA business. However, less than twenty IAs were in practice by 1921. Giant family trusts or "zaibatsu" dominated the Japanese economy until 1945, and disclosure of their financial statements was not generally considered necessary.

The importance of IAs gained some momentum after World War I due to the great depression and the great earthquake in the Kanto District which led to many bankruptcies. "Keirishi" or Licensed Accountant (LA) Law was inaugurated in 1927, and graduates of universities and colleges who had studied accounting could register as LAs without examination. Since demand for auditing (attest function) was small, LAs primarily served as advisors and counselors for small businesses. Due to the nominal qualifications to become an LA, their numbers grew rapidly, although many were only "paper" LAs. By 1948 when the LA Law was abolished, the number of LAs had reached 25,000. Fewer than 400 now exist.

"Zeirishi" or Certified Public Tax Accountant (CPTA) is another type of independent accountant which resembles the "steuerberater" or Tax Advisor in Germany. Creation of the business tax in 1896 after the Sino-Japanese War produced tax agent professionals, mostly composed of retired tax officials and accountants. Their number grew due to the tax increase brought about by the Russo-Japanese War of 1904-1905. After the appearance of these undesirable agents, it took twenty years of effort before the "Zeimu Dairishi" (Licensed Tax Agents, LTA) Law was implemented in 1933. LTAs were forced by the government to collect the heavy taxes imposed during wartime.

A new Certified Public Tax Accountant Law was passed in 1951 based on the Shoup Mission Report. The resulting examination included two fields of accounting as well as the tax laws. Only about ten percent successfully passed the examination. After two years of training they became CPTAs. CPTAs numbered 62,200 in 1995.

Due to the war, cost accounting was compelled to develop rapidly, but research in financial accounting failed to develop with the times. In 1948, the Securities and Exchange Law and "Konin Kaikeshi" (CPA)

continued on page 22

## MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

I want to thank the membership for providing me with the opportunity to serve the Academy of Accounting Historians as President. With your help, I will work toward the continuing growth and development of the Academy. The Academy work depends tremendously on the officers and the committees. Committees and task forces for 1996 were included in the December 1995 issue of *The Notebook*. Thank you very much for your willingness to serve on these committees and task forces.

### Centennial Celebration of the First CPA Law

The year 1996 is a very important year because it is the 100th anniversary of the first CPA exam and the first CPA law. On April 17, 1896, the Governor of New York signed into law "an act to regulate the profession of Public Accountants." The law prohibited anyone from using the title of "Certified Public Accountant" unless he had a certificate issued by the Regents of New York University.

In celebration of the 100th anniversary of this law, the Northeast Region of the AAA combined with the New York Society of CPAs for their regional meeting in New York City, April, 17-20, 1996. Many of the Academy members were on the program. The officers, trustees and key members of the Academy held their Spring meeting in conjunction with this meeting in New York. Minutes of this meeting are included in this issue of *The Notebook*.

### 100th Anniversary of the First CPA Exam

After the CPA law was passed, the first CPA examination was given on December 15 and 16, 1896, in Buffalo and New York City.



Doris M. Cook

Three prominent accountants were appointed by the Board of Regents of New York University to act as the Board of Examiners and administer the first exam. These three were Frank Broaker, Charles E. Sprague and Charles Waldo Haskins.

The theme of the December 5-7, 1996 research conference of the Academy will be "The Centennial Anniversary of the First CPA Examination: A Century of Professional Progress." Plenary sessions

and papers will focus on topics related to this celebration. Announcements of the conference have been mailed to members and another mailing will be made later. Registration fee is \$75 for members and \$25 for students. The location is the Cleveland Marriott Society Center in Cleveland, Ohio. The City of Cleveland is also celebrating its 200th anniversary and asked that the Academy meet there to help celebrate that anniversary, also. The annual business meeting will be held at the end of the conference on December 7. We urge you to attend this important celebration.

### Receptions at AAA Meeting and 7th World Congress of Accounting Historians

The Academy will be co-host of the opening reception at the 7th World Congress of Accounting Historians at Queen's University, Ontario, August 11-13, 1996. Several Academy members are on the program. The annual reception for all members of the Academy at the annual AAA meeting will be held August 14, 8-10 p.m., at the Hyatt Regency Hotel in downtown Chicago. Announcements of these receptions have been mailed to all members Please try to attend these important functions!!

## **SCHEDULE OF ACADEMY FUNCTIONS**

A brief listing of Academy activities for the near future are presented herein to bring to your attention the currently planned meetings.

### **7th World Congress of Accounting Historians**

August 11-13, 1996

Queen's University—Ontario, Canada

In conjunction with the Annual Meeting of the American Accounting Association  
August 14, 1996, Chicago, Illinois

### **Trustees and Officers Meeting**

1:00-4:00 P.M.

**Past President's Dinner**, 6:00 p.m.

**Membership Reception**, 8:00 p.m.

### **1996 Research Conference; The Centennial Anniversary of the First CPA Examination: A Century of Professional Progress**

December 5-7, 1996, Cleveland, Ohio

### **Annual Business Meeting**

December 7, 1996, Cleveland, Ohio

### **Trustees and Officers Meeting**

Tentative, April, 1997

Nashville, in conjunction with SEAAA

## **CALL FOR NOMINATIONS FOR HOURGLASS AWARD**

The President's Hourglass Award is presented annually by the Academy to (1) an author or authors of a particular publication deemed especially noteworthy in the field of accounting history or (2) for a lifetime of research or contributions to the literature in accounting history.

Members of the Academy are invited to make nominations for this prestigious award. Nominations should be made before October 1, 1996, and should be sent to Dr. Doris Cook, Accounting Department, University of Arkansas, Fayetteville, AR, 72701. The letter should include sufficient evidence to support the nomination and include current address, telephone and FAX numbers for the nominee.

The Hourglass Award will be presented at the annual research conference in Cleveland, Ohio, December 5-7, 1996.



## **ANNOUNCEMENT: THE 1997 RESEARCH CONFERENCE THE ACADEMY OF ACCOUNTING HISTORIANS**

The Academy's 1997 Research Conference will be held on December 4-6, 1997, in Richmond, Virginia. We hope you will place the conference on your calendar. Information concerning the call for papers, hotel accommodations, and other matters will be provided in the near future. In the meantime, questions about the conference may be directed to:

Ed Coffman

Chair, Program Committee

School of Business

Virginia Commonwealth University  
Richmond, VA 23284-4000

Phone: (804) 828-7193

FAX: (804) 828-8884

E-Mail: [ecoffman@busnet.bus.vcu.edu](mailto:ecoffman@busnet.bus.vcu.edu)

or

Ross Tondkar

President-Elect

School of Business

Virginia Commonwealth University

Richmond, VA 23284-4000

Phone: (804) 828-7156

FAX: (804) 828-8884

E-Mail: [rtondkar@busnet.bus.vcu.edu](mailto:rtondkar@busnet.bus.vcu.edu)

*The Accounting Historians Notebook, Vol. 19 [1996], No. 1, Art. 14*  
**THE ACADEMY OF ACCOUNTING HISTORIANS**  
**1996 RESEARCH CONFERENCE**

**THEME:** The Centennial Anniversary of the First CPA Examination: A Century of Professional Progress

**DATE:** December 5–7, 1996

**PLACE:** Cleveland Marriott Society Center  
127 Public Square  
Cleveland, Ohio 44144-1305  
Phone: (216) 696-9200  
Fax: (216) 696-0966

**CONFERENCE REGISTRATION:**

Members: \$75  
Students: \$25

The Academy of Accounting Historians invites you to attend its 1996 Research Conference in Cleveland, Ohio, on December 5–7, 1996. Issues and topics are expected to include such as the following:

- the evolution of professionalism in accounting,
- the schism between theory and practice as reflected in the training of American practitioners, the content of the CPA exam, and U.S. practice,
- the CPA exam as a suitable measure of entry level competence and as a determinant of the educational content of accounting programs,
- the relationship between the AICPA and NASBA,
- comparative analysis of the certification exams in the U.S. and other countries,
- the effects of the industrial revolution and the information age on the CPA profession,
- the expectations of accounting information users: 1900 vs 2000.

Reservations at the Cleveland Marriott Society Center should be made by November 14. The hotel rate is \$99 per night, single or double occupancy. Additional information and forms concerning registration and hotels will be mailed at a later date. Professor Kathleen E. Sinning is the program coordinator, and questions regarding the program may be addressed to:

Professor Kathleen E. Sinning  
3182 Haworth College of Business  
Western Michigan University  
Kalamazoo, Michigan 49008-3899

Professor Sinning may also be contacted by phone at (616) 387-5259 or by FAX at (616) 387-5710. General correspondence may be directed to Professor Doris M. Cook, Department of Accounting, University of Arkansas, Fayetteville, Arkansas, 72701 (Phone: (501) 575-6125 or FAX: (501) 575-7687). Professor Marilyn Collins will chair the hotel arrangements and may be contacted at the Department of Accountancy, John Carroll University, Cleveland, Ohio, 44118.

## TALK ABOUT MEMBERS

### Esteve Attends Italian Accounting History Congress

Esteban Hernandez Esteve, president of the Comision de Historia de la Contabilidad de AECA participated in the III Congreso Nacional de la Societa Italiana di Storia della Ragioneria on October 20–21, 1995, in Alguer (Cerdena). Esteve made a short presentation on his latest research in the area of commercial arithmetic. La Societa Italiana di Storia della Ragioneria was established in 1984 in conjunction with the IV World Congress held in Pisa.

### Chatfied and Vangermeersch Complete Book

Michael Chatfied, Southern Oregon State College, and Richard Vangermeersch, University of Rhode Island, have edited the new *History of Accounting: An International Encyclopedia*. There are more than 400 entries on such subjects as publications in the field, institutional bodies, accounting and economic concepts, accounting issues, authors in accounting, records, leaders in the profession, accounting in various countries, financial court cases, accounting exams, and historical researchers. There are 153 contributors from 13 countries. The volume seeks to facilitate research by offering basic information and historical perspective for the many topics discussed.

### Carnegie and Wolnizer Publish Tribute to Robert William Gibson

Professors Gary Carnegie and Peter Wolnizer, Deakin University, have edited a volume entitled, *Accounting History Newsletter, 1980–1989 and Accounting History, 1989–1994: A Tribute to Robert William Gibson*. Dr. Gibson, a long-time member of The Academy and contributor to accounting history, is now retired from Deakin University. This tribute is published by the Accounting History Special Interest Group of the Accounting Association of Australia and New Zealand through Garland Books. Authors from a variety of institutions and countries have contributed articles to these publications during the time in which Dr. Gibson was jointly editing or editor.

### Vangermeersch Completes Providence Chapter History

Richard Vangermeersch, University of Rhode Island, completed the *History of the Providence Chapter of the Institute of Management Accountants, 1920–1995* in 1995. This limited edition was compiled to celebrate the Providence Chapter's 75th Anniversary Year and was distributed to members of the chapter, their companies, Rhode Island colleges and universities, libraries, business sponsors, chambers of commerce, and the general public.

## Volunteers Needed

Would you like to meet new colleagues, visit with old colleagues, talk about accounting history to your heart's content? Between attending sessions, visiting skyscrapers, and walking the Miracle Mile can you find an hour or two to work at the Academy's booth at the AAA Chicago Meeting? The booth is an important communication link to other accounting educators who may or may not be aware of the existence of the Academy. This is our golden opportunity to enhance the public's awareness of accounting history...and, hopefully, register a new member or two!

The hours are from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. August 14, 15, and 16. Volunteers are particularly needed for August 14, from 1:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. Anyone who cheerfully volunteers for two or more hours will receive an official Academy T-shirt!

If you can help, please contact:

Prof. Jeanette Sanfilippo  
Public Relations Chair  
Maryville University  
13550 Conway Road

St. Louis, Missouri USA 63141  
(314) 529-9571  
(314-529-9975 FAX  
jsan@maryville.edu

## CALL FOR MANUSCRIPTS

### 1996 VANGERMEERSCH MANUSCRIPT AWARD THE ACADEMY OF ACCOUNTING HISTORIANS

The Academy of Accounting Historians invites accounting faculty, who hold full-time appointment, received his or her masters/doctorate within seven years previous to date of submission, to submit a historical manuscript on any aspect of accounting for consideration of its 1996 Vangermeersch Manuscript Award. The Academy established this award in 1988 to encourage young academic scholars to pursue historical research.

Manuscripts must conform to the style and length requirements of the *Accounting Historians Journal*, be the work of one author, and not have been previously published or under review. Six copies of each manuscript should be submitted by September 15, 1996, to:

Professor John Richard Edwards  
Cardiff Business School  
Column Drive  
Cardiff CF1 3EU United Kingdom

A cover letter which identifies the author's mailing address, date of receiving masters/doctoral degree, and a statement that the manuscript has not been published and is not currently being considered for publication should be included in the submission. Manuscripts are evaluated by the committee using a blind review process. A \$500 stipend and a certificate of recognition of achievement in historical research is awarded. The manuscript will be published in the *Accounting Historians Journal* after an appropriate review.



## MONOGRAPHS AVAILABLE

The Academy of Accounting Historians announces the publication of Monograph No. 7 of its Monograph Series, Wolodymyr Moryka's *Bibliography of Russian Language Publications on Accounting 1736-1917*, Vol. 1 (1736-1900) and Vol. 2 (1901-1917). There is a critical introduction contained in each volume which indexes works on accounting published in Tsarist Russia chronologically, thematically, and by author. The set also contains a glossary and list of sources of main listings. The monograph is published by Garland Publishing and priced at \$132.00.

The Academy also has copies of Monograph No. 6, published in 1991 to honor Dr. Paul Garner. The monograph, entitled, *The Costing Heritage: Studies in Honor of S. Paul Garner*, is edited by O. Finley Graves of The University of Mississippi. The monograph is priced at \$15 for individual members and \$20 for institutional affiliates. Orders and inquiries for Monograph No. 6 should be made to: Doris M. Cook, The Academy of Accounting Historians, Department of Accounting, University of Arkansas, Fayetteville, Arkansas, 72701, USA.

## THOMAS J. BURNS

1923–1996

Professor of Accounting, Emeritus  
The Ohio State University

by

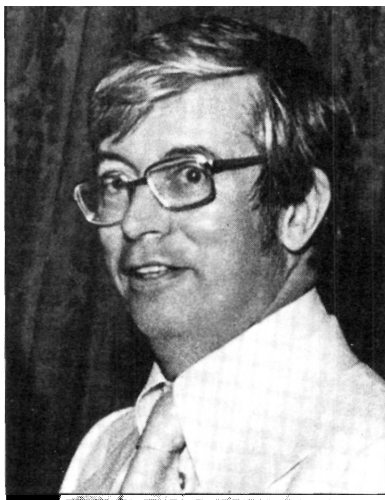
Dan Jensen

*The Ohio State University*

Tom Burns, former president of the Academy of Accounting Historians and former national president of Beta Alpha Psi, died on January 10, 1996, in Columbus, Ohio, following a brief illness. He retired from Ohio State University as Deloitte & Touche Professor of Accounting in 1994. Despite the limitations imposed by severe arthritis, he continued to come to his office twice each week to talk with students and colleagues

and to work on matters related to Beta Alpha Psi and The Accounting Hall of Fame.

Tom Burns was born in Arena, Wisconsin on April 6, 1923. Following high school, he served as a staff sergeant with the U.S. Army in Europe during World War II. He returned to Wisconsin in December, 1945, and studied accounting and American history at the University of Wisconsin, graduating with a BBA in 1950. Following graduation, Tom became controller for Lawrence University in Appleton, Wisconsin and, in 1952, became a CPA. In addition to the responsibilities of controller, the post included an opportunity to teach the beginning accounting course. In 1955, he entered the University of Michigan from which he received an MBA degree in 1957. Following a year on the accounting faculty at Southern Illinois University, he entered the University of Minnesota where he earned a



*Thomas J. Burns*

Ph.D. in accounting.

In 1963, he became Associate Professor of Accounting at The Ohio State University. During his second year at Ohio State, he received a leave of absence to serve as visiting Professor at Stanford University, the University of Chicago, and Harvard University. In 1974, he returned to California as a visiting Professor at the University of California-Berkeley. He spent the remainder of his academic career at Ohio

State where he was promoted to Professor of Accounting in 1967. He served as department chair from 1977 to 1981.

Tom Burns was totally dedicated to accounting education and to Ohio State's accounting students and programs. He founded the Accounting Honors Program in the late 1960s and served as its director until his retirement in 1994. Working with the Honors Program and the Omicron Chapter of Beta Alpha Psi, he molded an extraordinary educational experience for hundreds of accounting students, an experience that included regular participation in national and regional student seminars and manuscript contests. In 1966, Tom founded Ohio State's Accounting Research Colloquium which continues to meet every week during the academic year. In the early 1970s, he revitalized The Ohio State Accounting Hall



of Fame and served as its chair until his death in 1996.

In addition to papers in academic and professional journals, Tom's scholarly publishing included several books and many edited conference proceedings. Several of these proceedings were instrumental in raising the importance of behavioral and social phenomena in accounting research. He was a strong proponent of innovation in accounting education, and for nearly 30 years, McGraw-Hill published his *Accounting Trends*, an annual collection of newly developed course outlines.

Tom was a long-time member and supporter of The Academy of Accounting Historians and served on its committees. In 1992, Tom served as president of The Academy. He also served as a member of its Board of Trustees in 1977-79 and 1993-95. During his year as president, he sponsored a joint conference of The academy and The Accounting Hall of Fame that resulted in the publication of *U.S. Accounting History: 1965-1990, Proceedings of Accounting Hall of Fame Conference, An Oral History*. In recognition of his contributions to The Academy, he was awarded life membership in 1994.

Tom contributed to other professional organizations as well. He was national president of Beta Alpha Psi during 1978-1979, and from 1974 to 1981. He was a member of the National Council of Beta Alpha Psi and director of special projects. During this period, he was involved in the establishment of regional meetings, the creation of the National Student Seminar which was named in his honor and is held at

Ohio State in alternative years, and the establishment of the National Manuscript Contest. He was also instrumental in the location of the national office in Sarasota, the organization of continuing annual funding, the establishment of the National Advisory Forum, and the commissioning of the writing of a history of Beta Alpha Psi.

He served as Director of Education for the American Accounting Association, and the New Faculty Consortium was initiated and developed by Tom during his term, as was a biannual conference for Ph.D. program directors. He received honors and awards from virtually every organization in which he became involved. These many honors include the Outstanding Accounting Educator Awards from both the American Institute of CPAs (1989) and the American Accounting Association (1992). He was also the first recipient of the Ohio Outstanding Accounting Educator Award. In addition, he received distinguished service awards from the Columbus Chapters of the Financial Executives Institute and the Institute of Management Accountants.

Tom is survived by his sister and brother and their families and by hundreds of students throughout the country whose lives he influenced. A Thomas J. Burns Memorial Fund has been established at Ohio State University, the proceeds from which will be used to attract and recognize outstanding accounting students to the Fisher College of Business. Memorial contributions may be sent to the Department of Accounting and Management Information Systems, 1775 College Road, Columbus, Ohio, 43210.

#### THE ACCOUNTING HISTORIANS NOTEBOOK

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#### HOME PAGE

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Webmaster: Gary J. Previts  
Case Western Reserve University

# 7TH WORLD CONGRESS OF ACCOUNTING HISTORIANS

Queen's University, Ontario, Canada

August 11-13, 1996

The World Congress of Accounting Historians is held every four years at varying international locations. The 7th World Congress will be held at Queen's University, Ontario, Canada on August 11-13, 1996. Previous congresses, beginning in Brussels in 1970, held in the United States, England, Italy, Australia, and Japan have provided three days of presentations and discussions and have encouraged the dissemination of research, generated greater interest in accounting history, and fostered a link between various accounting historians around the world.

The program of the congress will feature plenary addresses by Daniel Wren (author of the best selling book, *The Evolution of Management Thought*), accounting historians Maureen Berry (past president of The Academy of Accounting Historians), and Barbara Merino (Editor, *The Accounting Historians Journal* and a former president of The Academy), and will include presentations by over sixty academics and practitioners from 18 countries. Topics include historical analysis of financial and managerial accounting practices, audit techniques, tax policies, and the impact of social and economic forces on the profession. The Congress will provide many opportunities for networking including an opening reception and banquet. There will also be exhibits of local and national archives, publishers' displays, and a demonstration of accounting history on the internet. A monograph of selected papers from the Congress published by the CGA-Canada Research Foundation is included as part of your registration fee.

Program details will be mailed to you

upon receipt of your registration form. Information also will be posted on the Internet site of this Congress listed under upcoming events at the Queen's School of Business home page: <http://qsilver.queensu.ca/business>. The Congress is co-sponsored by the Academy of Accounting Historians, CGA Canada, Queen's University, and Social Science and Humanities Research Council of Canada.

Reservations for housing should be made separately and rooms will be available at the Holiday Inn Kingston, Howard Johnson Kingston, and Ramada Inn. To register for the Congress, send a cheque payable to Queen's University in the amount of \$200 Canadian or \$145 US to:

Alan J. Richardson, Congress Convener  
7th World Congress of Accounting Historians

School of Business, Queen's University  
Kingston, Ontario, Canada, K7L 3N6

For information:

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## WANTED

### MANUSCRIPTS AND ITEMS OF INTEREST

Anyone wishing to submit short article manuscripts, notes, cartoons, shaggy dog stories, letters to the editor, or other items to THE ACCOUNTING HISTORIANS NOTEBOOK should send the material for consideration to the editor, Elliott L. Slocum, School of Accountancy, Georgia State University, University Plaza, Atlanta, GA 30303.

by

*Elliott L. Slocum, Georgia State University*

*Richard G. Vangermeersch, University of Rhode Island*

During much of the Twentieth Century, public accounting was considered to be a man's profession. Few women had the fortitude or opportunity to challenge the system which generally discriminated against their practice of public accounting. Several papers have identified women pioneers in accountancy and others have documented the difficulties women faced in becoming Certified Public Accountants (CPA) and practicing professionally. (i.e., Buckner and Slocum, 1985; Davidson, 1950; Jones, 1927; Lehman, 1992; Quire, 1947; Slocum and Buckner, 1984; Trail, 1925; and Webster, 1945.) Most of these papers have said a little or nothing of Lena E. Mendelsohn, although she is referred to by Meyers and Koval (1994) as "...a woman pioneer in the professional accounting field,...a well-known CPA in Boston." (p. 29) Other than a few references to her in the literature, little is known about Mendelsohn.

Mendelsohn was a pioneer, who, by achieving some degree of success in the practice of accounting, contributed in the early years to the long and difficult struggle by women to take their rightful place in the profession of accountancy. As a woman and of Jewish heritage, she undoubtedly faced many barriers. Yet, she was approximately the twenty-fifth woman to receive the CPA certificate in the United States, and she conducted her own practice for fifteen years, during which time she achieved recognition and respect among her peers.

This paper reports on the initial research into the life and contributions of Lena E. Mendelsohn. Unfortunately, much remains a mystery regarding her life, education, and practice of accounting. To place her contributions in proper context, a brief description of the environment in which

Mendelsohn practiced is included. It is not the purpose of this paper to identify or to evaluate the various reasons used to discriminate against women's entry into public accounting. These have been documented by other research (i.e., Hoele, 1932; Lehman, 1992; Leuck, 1938; Mendelsohn, 1920; Priester, 1940; Quire, 1947; "Women in Accountancy," 1923; "What Militates Against Them," 1923), and this paper accepts that such discrimination existed for much of this century.

### **A Hostile Environment**

Smedley and Robinson (1945) noted that some of the conservative members of the accounting profession must find the success of women in accountancy to be a profound shock. They stated that:

Accountancy in the United States inherits a good part of its traditions and mores from the British Isles, and the idea of a woman entering this sacred male sphere is, to a British accountant, just this side of preposterous. American accountants are only slightly less prejudiced. Nevertheless, despite the growls of dismay, women began to enter the field about 1900,... (p. 162)

Women gained some acceptance in accounting positions within business organizations and governmental agencies in the early part of this century. However, acceptance in public accounting, particularly in large accounting firms, was not generally forthcoming until much later. Hatcher (1927) stated that, in spite of the success women have achieved in accountancy, conditions made it a "disadvantageous" profession for women. "..., women book-

keepers, among those who have ability for higher work, often seem a particularly discouraged group, occupationally.” (p. 121) Although Hatcher noted that a “slowly increasing number of women were venturing into public accounting,” she stated that

..., public accountancy, ... offers acute problems as to its desirability as an occupation for women. On the whole, in no profession, and possibly in no type of business dependent upon trained intelligence, does the masculine attitude seem for the most part so unfavorable to women as it is in the field of accountancy. Certainly in none which attracts women at all is it more so. (p. 121)

Hatcher recommended that a woman who desired to enter accountancy should do so by becoming a private accountant in a firm or organization.

Information concerning positions which women CPAs, who were Mendelsohn's peers, held in public accounting, business organizations, and government, though incomplete, indicates that women participated in the various areas of accountancy. (*The Accountants' Directory and Who's Who*, 1925; Buckner and Slocum, 1985; Smedley and Robinson, 1945; Trail, 1925; Webster, 1945; Webster, 1954) Very few women worked for the larger public accounting firms. Most, who practiced public accounting, worked for small firms or established their own practices. Although women had displayed unquestioned ability and passed the CPA exams with distinction, few accounting firms hired them, even for purposes of allowing them to gain the experience required to practice public accounting. An editorial, entitled “What Militates Against Them,” (1923) stated that although the number of women preparing for careers in accounting was increasing, the vast majority would have to be employed in industry because “...women are not wanted

as accountants on the staff of practicing public accountants.” (p. 443)

Hoerle, (1932) in writing about opportunities for women in accountancy, confirmed the continued difficulties women faced in attempting to enter public accounting, and she reported that women also were discouraged by college faculty from taking accounting courses. Comments by a woman CPA, possibly Gertrude Cohen, who had established a successful business in New York City stated that:

If a girl knows stenography in addition to accountancy, she can obtain a position in an accountant's office, but it is wise to refrain from admitting she is an accountant until she has proven her usefulness. After six months or so she can admit she is an accountant and ask for an opportunity to make audits. The required apprenticeship is the greatest difficulty facing the trained woman accountant and, therefore, I have made it a practice to employ only women in my office. (pp. 178–179)

Resistance to women entering public accounting continued during the 1930s. However, industry and government began to provide increasing opportunities for women. Demands of government and industry during the 1930s had resulted in a shortage of accountants, and women had achieved some important positions in these areas of accounting employment. The war years resulted in greater demand for women accountants, even in public accounting. Some of the old prejudices were at least being challenged. Obstacles to the necessary education were somewhat less of a problem. (Palen, 1945)

#### Family and Early Years

Who was Lena E. Mendelsohn? *The Accountants' Directory and Who's Who* (1925)  
*continued on page 22*

# Academy of Accounting Historians Minutes—Meeting of Trustees, Officers, and Key Members Grand Hyatt Hotel—New York City Saturday, April 20, 1996

Present: Ashton Bishop, Ed Coffman, Doris Cook, Dale Flesher, Jean Harris, Sarah Holmes, Tom Lee, Barbara Merino, Paul Miranti, Gary Previts, Bill Samson, Paul Shoemaker, Elliott Slocum, Dick Vangermeersch

1. The meeting was called to order by President Doris Cook at 1:00 p.m.
2. Doris Cook distributed the minutes of the Urbana, Illinois (November 1995) meeting. The minutes were approved.
3. Doris Cook distributed the 1995 year end membership report. Bill Samson gave the membership status for 1996. The retention of members and the recruitment of former members who have not renewed were discussed. The President will write to non-renewing members to encourage them to renew for 1996. A free gift of either monograph 3 or 4 will be offered as an incentive to renew.
4. Sarah Holmes presented the report of current 1996 revenues, expenditures and cash balance. Also submitted were the audit report and the 1995 financial statements.
5. Sarah Holmes made a motion that bonding be acquired for the treasurer and secretary. The motion was passed. She also proposed that the secretary and the treasurer be given solely signature power over Academy bank accounts. This motion passed.
6. Sarah Holmes made a motion to amend the 1996 budget to provide for a maximum of \$720 for the Home Page Network project. The motion was passed.
7. Barbara Merino made a motion to amend the 1996 budget to increase the treasurer's travel budget to \$2,000 (from \$1,000) placing it on par with the



*Grand Central*

- secretary's and the president's amounts. The motion was passed.
8. The report and agenda for the 1996 research conference (Cleveland, December 5-7), prepared by Doris Cook, was given. Preliminary program, call for papers, and other information about the conference will be mailed to all individual members in letters from the President. Kathleen Sinning has publicized the conference in several places.
  9. Barbara Merino gave the editor's report for *The Accounting Historians Journal*. The delays in publication are being overcome. The December 1995 issue has been printed and will be mailed out next week; the June 1996 issue is well along and should be published close to the June 30th target. Discussed at length were the problems in delays in members receiving the *Journal*, postage and mailing. Barbara

et al.; Accounting historians notebook, 1996, Vol. 19, no. 1  
Merino proposed, and the motion passed, research materials.

10. Barbara Merino proposed that the submission fee of the *Accounting Historians Journal* be reduced from \$15 to \$0 for members and be reduced from \$38 to \$25 for non members. By this latter change, authors who were not members would no longer automatically be given membership status by the submission. After discussion, the motion was approved.
11. Elliott Slocum reported that the Spring issue of *The Accounting Historians Notebook* is in progress and short articles are needed to complete the issue.
12. Elliott Slocum reported that the inventory of the Academy's holdings of historical materials at Georgia State is in progress.
13. Dale Flesher reported that the research center at Ole Miss had received some additions to the video tape collection.
14. Gary Previts described the May 31–June 1 meeting of the Coordinating Task Force to be held at University of Alabama. The purpose is primarily to coordinate the Academy's Centers, particularly the overlapping holdings of
15. Paul Miranti and Paul Shoemaker described the progress of their Research Committee of developing a document titled "Historical Methods for Accounting Researchers." A tentative table of contents was presented. Issues about how to make this available and how to fund the project were discussed. The Committee is to consider these issues and make a formal proposal at the August meeting (Chicago). A motion supporting the concept of this project was made and approved.
16. Jean Harris reported on the Membership Committee's activities. The Committee has undertaken several new approaches to bring in new members. Plans to recognize and reward members for sponsoring new members were discussed. The idea of getting more members from the practice community was suggested.
17. The report of Jeanette Sanfilippo's Public Relations Committee was read. The t-shirt sale of 1995 broke even, after considering the free t-shirts given to new members. This activity was felt to be worthwhile and should be continued. A motion was made to use \$600 to again fund this project for 1996. The motion passed. A table has been reserved for academy brochures, flyers, announcement, etc. at the World



Congress in Canada, August 11-15. A booth has been reserved for the Academy at the AAA meeting in Chicago.

18. Ed Coffman presented Ross Tondkar's report on the plans for the Research Conference in Richmond (December 1997). A motion was made and passed that the Academy should not agree to an indemnification clause in the hotel contract.
19. Because of the financial support raised by Barry Huff, it was proposed that his 1996 membership fee be waived in appreciation of this effort. This motion passed.
20. Gary Previts gave Gene Flegm's report that progress was being made on raising funds from business donors.
21. Ashton Bishop delivered Donna Street's report on the Vangermeersch award. She has publicized this award in several places.
22. Tom Lee presented Gary Carnegie's

Overseas Outreach Report. Gary has resigned and Tom Lee has replaced him as the co-chairman. In the report, there were three recommendations to improve the Academy's service to international members. These recommendations will be considered by the Strategic Planning Committee for future action.

23. Tom Lee reported on efforts to include graduate students at history conferences. In particular, the session planned for Ph.D. students at the December 1996 Conference (Cleveland) has been postponed until the Richmond Conference (December 1997). It was felt that funding of \$1,000 per year could be raised for such a Ph.D. session. The donation of Tom Lee's, Ashton Bishop's and Bob Parker's royalty check of \$600 from Garland was cited as a good start at meeting this objective.
24. The meeting adjourned at 5:00 p.m.



## CALL FOR MANUSCRIPTS THE ACCOUNTING HISTORIANS JOURNAL

*The Accounting Historians Journal* encourages you to submit papers on subject matter related to the development of accounting thought and practice. Papers on biographical subjects and on historical method are also acceptable. Guidelines on research and a guide for submitting manuscripts may be found in *The Journal* or may be obtained from the Editors.

Manuscripts must be in English and of acceptable style and organization for clarity

of presentation. The manuscript should not exceed 7,000 words. An abstract of not more than 200 words should separately accompany the manuscript. A submission fee of \$25 (U.S.) is required of non-Academy members. More detailed information concerning additional requirements regarding style, content, and the submission requirements is included in the guidelines mentioned in the previous paragraph.

Submit Manuscripts to:

Barbara D. Merino  
*The Accounting Historians Journal*  
Department of Accounting  
College of Business Administration  
University of North Texas  
Denton, Texas 76203-3677  
(817) 565-3094

For information and other matters, contact:

Patti A. Mills  
*The Accounting Historians Journal*  
Department of Accounting  
College of Business  
Indiana State University  
Terre Haute, Indiana 47809  
(812) 237-2008

# NEWS FROM THE COMISION DE HISTORIA DE LA CONTABILIDAD

## Accounting History Award

The Comision de Historia de la Contabilidad, de la Asociacion Espanola de Contabilidad y Administracion de Empresas (AECA), reports that an award has been established in honor and memory of Enrique Fernandez Pena, professor, professional, and original member. The Premio Enrique Fernandez Pena de Historia de la Contabilidad will be awarded annually for works of accounting history published in any of the Iberian languages during the year beginning on June 30, which makes a major contribution to accounting history.

## AECA VIII Congress

On September 27–29, 1995, the AECA VIII Congress was held in Sevilla. Its theme was “Internationalization of Business: A Challenge for 2000,” and attendance exceeded 350. More than 100 papers were presented, and almost all were published in the two volumes edited for the Congress.

The Comision de Historia de la Contabilidad of the AECA was included for the first time with a session of accounting history. Twelve papers were presented and are listed for your interest and to indicate the high quality of the program:

Alvarez Garcia, Carlos. “Fondos documentales existentes en el archivo historico provincial de soria para la historia de la contabilidad.”

Bernal, Antonio-Miguel. “Libros auxiliares contables de giro, cambio y otros activos liquidos en la negociacion de la Carrera de Indias.”

Donoso Anes, Rafael. “La partida doble aplicada a la contabilidad de la hacienda de bienes de difuntos en Indias (siglos XVI y XVII).”

Donoso Anes, Alberto. “Una propuesta para la implantacion de la partida doble en el Virreinato de Rio de la Plata.”

Garate Ojanguren, Montserrat. “La

contabilidad de las companias privilegiadas de comercio por acciones en la Espana de los siglos XVIII–XIX. Un analisis de los estados contables.”

Hernandez Esteve, Esteban. “Breve revision comparada de los incunables de aritmetica comercial anteriores a la ‘Summa’ de Luca Pacioli.”

Lanero, Juan J. “An Essay of Drapery (1635) de William Scott. Formulacion contable y deontologia empresarial en la Inglaterra del siglo XVII.”

Lobato Franco, Isabel. “Modelos y metodos de gestion en la compania mercantil preindustrial (Barcelona, 1650–1720).”

Lloret Badia, Antoni. “El manual de Juan Augier (1597–1613): aspectos contables.”

Martin Lamouroux, Fernando. “Manual de cuenta y razon de Ramon Valdes, 1817.”

Mayordomo Garcia-Chicote, Francisco. “Los ‘Capitols del Quitament’ de Valencia, de 1611: unos presupuestos municipales para una decada.”

Passola Palmada, Josep Maria. “Los censos al quitar en la Corona de Aragon: su influencia en la creacion de las Taules de Canvi de Barcelona y Mallorca (1401) y de Valencia (1407).”

## VIII World Congress of Accounting History

The International Committee of the World Congress of Accounting History has selected Spain for its VIII World Congress in the year 2000. La Asociacion Espanola de Contabilidad y Administracion de Empresas has charged Esteban Hernandez Esteve, as president of the Comision de Historia de la Contabilidad, with the responsibility to carry out the work necessary to host the Congress. Universities in Madrid are being contacted and invited to participate in the organization of the Congress. The University of Carlos III in Madrid will be the venue of the Congress in July, 2000.



## TAX HISTORY

### RESEARCH CENTER FELLOWSHIPS

The Tax History Research Center (THRC), which is sponsored by the Academy of Accounting Historians and housed at The University of Mississippi, is offering research fellowships of up to \$1,000 for individuals wishing to conduct research at the THRC. The grant can be used only for lodging at the Alumni House Motel at The University of Mississippi during the time the researcher is working at the THRC. Based on current room rates the grant would pay for about four weeks of lodging at Ole Miss. Applications should be submitted at least two months in advance of the projected visit. Applications should include a cover letter and an approximately one page proposal explaining how the resources of the THRC would be useful in the applicant's research.

Both predoctoral and postdoctoral fel-

lowships will be considered. Fellowships would be particularly suitable for those on sabbatical or Summer leave.

The THRC has an extensive collection of tax services, congressional committee reports, books, journals, and other publications dating back to 1909, dealing with the federal income tax. Some state materials, primarily theoretical or policy oriented, are also available.

Fellowship applications should be sent to:

Dr. Tonya K. Flesher, Director  
Tax History Research Center  
School of Accountancy  
The University of Mississippi  
University, MS 38677

For more information call Dr. Flesher at (601) 232-5731 or (601) 234-3969.



### HISTORY PAPERS AND PANELS AT REGIONAL MEETINGS OF AAA

A number of papers and panels were presented at the regional meeting of the American Accounting Association this Spring. These are provided for your information. Please contact the author(s) if you would like more information regarding their research.

#### MID-ATLANTA REGIONAL:

"Bethlehem Steel: A Content Analysis of its 1921-1958 Annual Reports,"

Michael E. Bitter,

Tennessee Technological University

"Managerial Control, Decision-Making and the Selling of the Powder: E. I. DuPont de Nemours & Company in the Early Nineteenth Century,"

Roxanne T. Johnson,

University of Scranton

"Early Efforts of the U. S. Public Accounting Profession to Investigate the Use of Statistical Sampling: A Focus on Initial Research Efforts, Legal Reviews, and Firm Specific Experimentation,"

Frank C. Lordi, Widner University

#### MIDWEST REGION:

"A Historical Study of the Re-Genderization of Bookkeeping in the United States, 1870-1930,"

Charles Wootton,

Eastern Illinois University

Barbara Kemmerer,

Eastern Illinois University

"The Development of State and Local Taxation in the United States,"

Frank Linton, Illinois State University

## NORTHEAST REGION:

"History—Accountancy Practice in Great Britain—The Model for CPAs in the New World," (Panel)

Thomas A. Lee, University of Alabama

Paul Miranti, Rutgers University

Keith Woodley,

Institute of Chartered

Accountants in

England and Wales

"The Persepolis

Fortification Texts:

Accounting and Control

in Ancient Persia from

509 to 494 B.C.,"

Gloria Vollmers,

University of Maine

"The CPA Examination in the United States:

Its Beginnings,"

Mary Ellen Oliveria,

Pace University

Bernard H. Newman,

Pace University

"Demographics of a New

Profession: A Centennial Profile of the CPAs of 1896–97,"

Gary John Previts, Case Western

Reserve University

Dale L. Flesher, University of Mississippi

Tonya K. Flesher, University of Mississippi

"History—Noted New York CPAs Not in the Accounting Hall of Fame," (Panel)



*Paul Miranti*



*Gloria Vollmers*



*Pictured above are: (left to right) Edward N. Coffman, Richard Vangermeersch, Julia Grant, C. William Wootton, and Elliott Slocum.*

Edward N. Coffman,

Virginia Commonwealth University

Julia Grant, Case Western Reserve Univ.

Elliott Slocum, Georgia State Univ.

Richard Vangermeersch, University of Rhode Island

C. William Wootton, Eastern Illinois Univ.

## OHIO REGIONAL:

"Centennial Profile of the CPA Profession,"

Paul Miranti, Rutgers University

New Brunswick

Dale Flesher, Univ. of Mississippi

Gary Previts, Case Western Reserve Univ.

## SOUTHEASTERN REGION:

"An Historical Case of an Early 1900s Principal-Agent Relationship in the Timber Industry,"

Timothy McCoy, University of

Texas—Pan American

Dale Flesher, University of Mississippi

"A Model of U. S. 'Sin' and Other Excise Taxes,"

Brenda Yelvington,

Univ. of Mississippi

Tonya Flesher, Univ.

of Mississippi

William Shughart,

Univ. of Mississippi

Dale Flesher, Univ.

of Mississippi



*Dale Flesher*

"Joseph Hardcastle: The First Man to Pass the CPA Exam,"

Dale Flesher, Univ. of Mississippi

Tonya Flesher, Univ. of Mississippi

Gary Previts, Case Western Reserve Univ.

## SOUTHWEST REGION:

"A Tribute to Charles Ezra Sprague,"

Jim Hyma, University of Arkansas

Doris M. Cook, University of Arkansas

"Origins of the Accounting Revolution,"

Carl Brewer, Sam Houston State Univ.

"The Complete Accounting Academician: Robert Sprouse,"

Peter F. Oehlers, Louisiana Tech Univ.

George C. Romeo, Rowan College of New Jersey

John E. Shaver, Jr., Louisiana Tech Univ.

## FOOTNOTES . . .

*The following short articles and items  
are submitted for your interest by the respective authors.*

### OFFICE TECHNOLOGY

*by*

*Michael M. Grayson  
Louisiana Tech University*

Mechanical pencils have become the norm  
When we look at substance over form.  
They keep on writing a long, long while  
As each account we reconcile.

Quill pens, methinks, are no longer the  
rage,  
Even if the goose's feelings we assuage.  
Fountain pens are now so rarely used  
That many young'uns don't know how the  
ink is infused.

Ball-point pens from various makers  
Are used now by the movers and shakers,  
Plus felt-tips and other writing  
instruments  
As work is done on all those long documents.

Post binders are passé, with their ledger  
pages wide.  
They had a separate page for each account  
inside.  
Kardex files are gone, replaced by  
computer data bases  
Which are easier to use, thanks to  
graphical interfaces.

Do you remember those old Burroughs and  
NCR machines?  
If not, look up the ads in some old magazines.  
The Addressograph-Multigraph is how  
mailing lists were kept.  
You make a plate with an address, then try  
it and accept.

The imprint if it is legible at all, not like a  
laser printer.

You could tell who ran the machine; that  
was your resident squinter.

"Clackety-clack," the machines would go  
with all their bells and whistles  
As the bookkeepers ran them to prepare  
their periodic epistles.

Journals and ledgers have been replaced  
with computer printouts;

Now you need someone who knows all  
about data file layouts.

We have come a long way and technology  
has changed.

An old Chaplin movie would make us look  
deranged.

But somehow we just keep on trucking as  
all this change occurs.

It happens so fast that it just turns into  
blurs.

And it will not stop, oh no, it won't, there  
is more coming down the pike

Despite anything you may do to put your  
finger in the dike,

So muster your courage and accept your  
fate;

The vendors will accommodate.

"Try out this stuff," they say, "come take a  
look."

But most of all, remember this: they're  
after your checkbook.



by  
Terry K. Sheldahl

May I take the occasion to respond to Richard Vangermeersch's tacit invitation in a footnote of his Fall 1993 article in *The Notebook* (p. 14) to trace to their origins two homilies or admonitions attributed to Samuel Johnson by B. F. Foster and Peter Duff. They had appeared respectively on the fourth (last) and second pages of Johnson's preface to Richard Rolt's 1756 and 1761 *New Dictionary of Trade and Commerce*, a work he had not read, compiled by a fellow Londoner, he had not met. The "Let no man venture into large business..." falls within a citation made in the Fall 1989 article by Peter G. Boys in *The*

*Notebook* (p. 42), and a slightly shorter one made independently in my contribution to Garland Publishing's 1995 accounting series, which reprints two articles from Rolt's book and makes significant further reference to Johnson. Also, Gary Previts and I had cited the admonition in a June 1977 *Abacus* article (pp. 56, 59), but somehow misattributed it to Dr. Johnson's preface to his own, more comprehensive, dictionary. As in effect already illustrated, Duff's presentation as rendered differed in detail from the original source referred to in 1977, 1989, and 1995 citations.



## FROM THE DUSTY NOTES AND AN UNKNOWN SOURCE

Those who do not know history are destined to repeat it—is an oft quoted "truism." A more precise statement might be that people who do not understand history are destined to repeat it. However, one still wonders; even if a person (or nation) understands history, will he recognize the signs in the present environment which are similar to some past environment? If he does recognize the similarity, will he have the ability,

influence or desire to alter a prior observed history course? Does history, ingested or observed, really teach us anything? Or is man only able to alter preconditions of the future if he recognizes EXPERIENCED situations? Does one generation really teach succeeding generations anything? Has change occurred so rapidly that history no longer provides a guide through extrapolation?

*Submitted by A. R. Roberts*



## WHAT IS HISTORY?

by  
Laurence Binyon

New York *Evening Post*, May 25, 1912 copied from the *Oxford and Cambridge Review*

Past is the past! But no, it is not past,  
In us, in us, it quickens, wants, aspires;  
And on our hearts the unknown dead have cast  
The hunger and the thirst of their desires.

Unknown the pangs, the peace we too prepare!  
What shakes this bosom shall reverberate  
Through ages unconceived: in that deep lair  
The unguessed, un hoped, and undreaded  
issues wait.

Our pregnant acts are all unprophesied  
We dream sublime conclusions; destine,  
plan,  
Build and unbuild; yet turn no jot aside  
The something infinite that moves in Man.

We write The End where fate has scarce  
begun;  
And no man knows the thing that he has  
done.

*The Accounting Historians Notebook, Spring 1996*

Published by eGrove, 1996

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## HISTORY IN PRINT

A considerable amount of research in accounting history is published in various books and periodicals other than those published by The Academy. We hope that identification of some of this research will be of interest and of help in your own research efforts. We encourage readers of *The Notebook* to advise the editor of the many publications involving accounting history which should be listed in this section. Your help is greatly appreciated.

"A Look Back At Philip B. Chenok's 15 Years As AICPA President," *CPA Letter*, June 1995, pp. 4-5.

Alan Armstrong, "The Value Added of National Accounting: Commemorating 50 years of National Accounts in the Netherlands," *Economic Journal: The Journal of the Royal Economic Society*, May 1995, p. 797.

Elliot Asarnow and James Marker, "Historical Performance of the U.S. Corporate Loan Market: 1988-1993," *Commercial Lending Review*, Spring 1995, pp. 13-32.

Thomas L. Barton and William G. Shenkir, et al, "Wyatt Earp, Frontier Accountant," *CPA Journal*, June 1995, pp. 48-50.

"Celebrating Paul Gerhardt's Role In the American Accounting Association for the Past 30 Years," *Accounting Education News*, June 1995, pp. 1-3.

Raymond J. Chambers, *An Accounting Thesaurus: 500 Years of Accounting*, Pergamon, 1995.

Hugh M. Coombs and John Richard Edwards, "The Financial Reporting Practices of British Municipal Corporations 1835-1933: A Study in Accounting Innovations," *Accounting and Business Research*, Spring 1995, pp. 93-105.

Antonio Goxens Duch, "Algo sobre Contabilidad y Administracion Empresarial," *Tecnica Economic*, Marzo 1996, pp. 29-30.

"Fifty Years of Change," *Edpacs: The EDP Audit, Control, & Security Newsletter*, October 1995, pp. 19-20.

Richard K. Fleischman, "Accounting History: Some British Contributions," *Accounting Review*, April 1995, p. 355.

Dermot French and Gerold Bielser, "Accounting Standards in Switzerland," *Certified Accountant*, February 1995, pp. 54-57.

Marshall A. Geiger, "Setting the Standard for the New Auditor's Report: An Analysis of Attempts To Influence the Auditing Standards Board," *Studies in Managerial and Financial Accounting*, Greenwich: JAI Press, 1993.

James A. Gherity, "The Option Clause in Scottish Banking, 1730-65: A Reappraisal," *Journal of Money, Credit & Banking*, August 1995, pp. 713-726.

Max Gillman and Tim Eade, "The Development of the Corporation In England, with Emphasis On Limited Liability," *International Journal of Social Economics*, 1995, pp. 20-32.

Keith Hooper and Michael Pratt, "Discourse and Rhetoric: The Case of the New Zealand Native Land Company," *Accounting, Auditing & Accountability*, 1995, pp. 10-37.

"How Did Taxes Come Into Being? A Look At Their History," *CPA Client Tax Letter*, July/August/September 1995, pp. 19-20.

"How the U.S. Income-Tax System Grew," *Nations Business*, April 1995, p. 21.

Stewart Jones and Max Aiken, "British Companies Legislation and Social and Political Evolution During the

- Nineteenth Century," *British Accounting Review*, March 1995, pp. 61–82.
- Michael W. Maher, "The Evolution of Management Accounting Research," *Management Accounting*, May 1995, p. 72.
- Helen T. McCoy, "Financial Management In the Army—40 Years Later," *Armed Forces Comptroller*, Summer 1995, p. 11.
- Melis, Fedeigo. "Gli aspetti economici e mercantili dei prodotti dell'agricoltura e dei vini toscani in rapporto al loro commercio nel mondo (secoli XIV–XVI)" *Il Datini*, Gennaio 1996, Anno IX–N. 17, pp. 4–16.
- Paul J. Miranti, Jr., "Local Authority Accounting Methods: Problems and Solutions, 1909–1934," *Business History Review*, Autumn 1994, pp. 444–445.
- George J. Murphy, "History of Canadian Accounting Thought and Practice," *New Works in Accounting History*, New York: Garland, (1993).
- Belverd E. Needles, Jr., "A Profile, Annotated Bibliography, and Index of Accounting Research on Developing Countries: 1965–1990," *International Journal of Accounting Education & Research*, 1995, pp. 107–108.
- Deborah Ort, "The Canadian Tax Foundation: The First 50 Years," *Canadian Tax Journal*, 1995, pp. 1–5.
- Wayne Paveto, "Property Taxes, Then and Now," *Fiscal Notes*, August 1995, pp. 15–16.
- Alistair M. Preston and David J. Cooper, et al, "Changes In the Code of Ethics In the U.S. Accounting Profession, 1917 and 1988: The Continual Quest for Legitimization," *Accounting, Organizations and Society*, August 1995, pp. 507–546.
- Michiharu Sakurai, "Past and Future of Japanese Management Accounting," *Journal of Cost Management*, Fall 1995, pp. 21–30.
- Tamar Satov, "Canadian Tax Foundation Celebrates 50 Years," *CA Magazine*, August 1995, pp. 12–13.
- Ken Shackleton, "Scottish Chartered Accountants: Internal and External Political Relationships, 1853–1916," *Accounting, Auditing & Accountability Journal*, 1995, pp. 18–46.
- Piroska E. Soos, "Taxation At the Source and Withholding in England, 1512 to 1640," *British Tax Review*, 1995, pp. 49–91.
- Robert C. Sweeting and Roy E. Davies, "Industrial Innovation and Parallel Accounting Developments," *Technovation*, June 1995, pp. 289–302.
- "The Past and Future of Cost Engineering," *Cost Engineering*, June 1995, pp. 12–13.
- "The Pioneers Who Lost Their Way," *Accountancy*, September 1995, p. 66.
- Peter Tufano, "Securities Innovations: A Historical and Functional Perspective," *BankAmerica Journal of Applied Corporate Finance*, Winter 1995, pp. 90–104.
- Stephen P. Walker, "The Genesis of Professional Organization In Scotland: A Contextual Analysis," *Accounting, Organizations & Society*, May 1995, pp. 285–310.
- Stephen P. Walker and Ken Shackleton, "Corporatism and Structural Change In the British Accountancy Profession, 1930–1957," *Accounting, Organizations & Society*, August 1995, pp. 467–503.
- Jay F. Williams, "The Evolution of DoD Financial Management or Chronicles of a Sojourn Through DoD's Books," *Armed Forces Comptroller*, Spring 1995, pp. 18–22.
- G. Thomas Woodward, "Interest-Bearing Currency: Evidence from the Civil War Experience," *Journal of Money, Credit & Banking*, August 1995, pp. 927–937.



**COMMENTS**.....continued from page 1

Law were passed. The Japan Institute of Certified Public Accountants (JICPA) was established on October 22, 1949 by 48 CPAs who passed the first exceptional examination. High quality of CPAs is ensured through a series of rigid examinations. The first exam is for those who have no academic schooling, and it includes subjects related to liberal arts. The second examination consists of two hurdles: (1) preliminary questions regarding Accounting and Commercial Code and (2) four fields of accounting with a choice of two among Management, Economics, and Civil Code. An average of seven percent pass these barriers and become Junior CPAs. Junior CPAs must complete three years or more of practice before they can sit for the final examination. This examination contains written and oral parts in areas of auditing, analysis of financial statements, tax, and other practices.

Presently, there are 10,800 CPAs, and all are practitioners. Each must register with the JICPA, which has thirteen regional organizations. Approximately seventy percent of their duties consist of auditing, MAS, accounting, tax practice, information systems consulting, financial investigation

of the police, supply of information for M & A, advising corporations about international activities, and other activities. Their primary activity is compulsory auditing of large corporations which are publicly listed and most of which are audited by the "big five." Private schools and large political parties which receive subsidies, trade unions, and others based on the law are also audited.

The Japanese CPA system may be characterized as follows: (1) significance and social estimation of the profession are as high as their remuneration, (2) CPAs of high quality have supported the rapid growth, (3) CPTAs complement and diminish CPAs' work in practice although their functions are different in theory, (4) CPAs now play the leading role in making accounting principles and standards, (5) their intimate guidance before closing accounts decreases friction in their expert opinions, (6) Ministry of Finance severely inspects financial statements of big companies after their auditing, instead of SEC, and (7) few law suits against CPAs are found practical. In the future, it will be desirable to expand auditing to governments, public corporations such as religious organizations, and others.



**SEARCH**.....continued from page 11  
provides only a keyhole view.

**Mendelsohn, Lena E.;** C.P.A. New Hampshire; men. A.I.A. and N.A.C.A.  
*Address:* L. E. Mendelsohn & Co., 60 State St., Boston. (p. 579)

Lena E. Mendelsohn (1900 Census) was born in September 1876 in Sweden of Jewish parents, Isador(e) and Charlotte. Her parents had been born in Germany in the 1850s after her grandparents had immigrated from Russia. Lena's death certificate (1928) reported that her parents were born in Russia. It further adds to the confusion by reporting that her mother's maiden name was Ida Krama. Lena had three sisters and

two brothers, born between 1878 and 1889. The family immigrated to the United States and New York in 1882, moved to Pennsylvania in 1886, and to Boston, Massachusetts by 1894. The family moved in 1905 from 178 Chambers in Boston to 158 Glenway in the Dorchester section of Boston. Lena, except for a possible short time, lived with her family. Dorchester was, at this time, heavily populated by Jewish immigrants, and Boston did not particularly like immigrants. (Whelan, 1996)

Her father was listed as a bookkeeper in the 1894 *Boston City Directory*. In later years, he would be listed as a shirt maker (1896), salesman (1904), secretary of a business at 103 Fulton (1905), and later as president of a

business at 103 Fulton (1910). Her father apparently had died by 1921.

The *Boston City Directory* in 1899 and 1902 listed Lena as employed at the Charity Building, and the 1900 Census listed her employment as stenographer. She may have lived in New York City in 1901. In 1904, Lena was listed as a student and in 1905 was a clerk at Simmons College. In 1910, she was listed as a clerk at the 309 Ford Building and in 1911, she worked for the Commission for the Blind at 308 Ford Building.

The question of Lena's educational background remains a mystery. Lena apparently was a student in 1904 and worked at Simmons College, but records have not been found to establish that she attended Simmons College or any other college. Her comments regarding the education needed for an accounting career indicates that she likely had some education beyond high school.

#### Practice and Professional Involvement

Lena E. Mendelsohn (1928) began the practice of accounting on her own account in 1913 in Boston. The *Boston City Directory* listed her in the Accountants and Auditors Section of the Business Section. The address of her practice initially was 120 Boylston, but she moved to 60 State St., Boston, in 1915 and continued to be at that address. The *Boston City Directory* reported her address to be 222 Beacon in 1927 and 7 Walnut in 1928. A notice in *The Certified Public Accountant* (1928) continued to report her business address as 60 State St., Boston.

An advertisement appeared in the *Boston City Directory* in 1916 in the Accountants Section which said:

LENA E. MENDELSON  
System Building  
and  
Constructive Accounting  
For  
Merchants and Manufacturers  
60 State Street Boston, Mass.  
Telephone Main 433

This was the only year in which the notice was published. In 1921, she changed her firm name to L. E. Mendelsohn & Co. The 1921 *Boston City Directory* listed her brother as employed by Lena, but in Globe, Arizona. No other information has been found to confirm that she had an office in Globe, Arizona.

Lena Mendelsohn was the first woman to receive a CPA certificate in the state of New Hampshire, receiving certificate number 96. *The Certified Public Accountant* (1928) reports the date of the certificate as November 24, 1919 while other sources indicate that it was issued in 1920. Here also is a mystery. As a resident of Dorchester and with her business in Boston, why and how did she receive her CPA certificate from New Hampshire?

Mendelsohn's practice may have involved some aspects of cost accounting because Meyers and Koval (1994) said that "she recognized the role cost accounting would play in the nation's future." (p. 29) J. Lee Nicholson of New York City invited Mendelsohn to an organizational meeting in Buffalo, New York to establish a new organization concerned with cost accounting issues. Such an invitation would suggest that she was well known and apparently successful in her practice. She attended this meeting on October 13-14, 1919, and became the only woman to be a charter member of the National Association of Cost Accountants (National Association of Accountants, Institute of Management Accountants). Among the 36 men attending the organizational meeting were such notables in business and public accounting as R. H. Belknap, William B. Castenholz, Walter S. Gee, W. P. Hilton, Edward P. Moxey, Jr., Clinton H. Scovell, and J. Lee Nicholson. Other well-known accountants who became charter members and played a part in the founding of the National Association of Cost Accountants were Arthur Andersen, Arthur T. Cameron, Eric A. Camman, Stephen Gilman, David



Himmelblau, F. H. Hurdman, Wm. M. Lybrand, R. H. Montgomery, John B. Niven, and C. Oliver Wellington. Thus, Mendelsohn was interacting with some individuals who had and would contribute much to the development of accountancy.

The fact that Mendelsohn was not elected to any position with the National Association of Cost Accountants (NACA) as an officer or a member of a committee perhaps reflects the male bias of the period. At the Second International Cost Conference in Cleveland, Ohio on September 14–16, 1921, the proceedings noted that a ladies program was initiated. A special committee, on which Mendelsohn was a member, was responsible for the tours and entertainment of the lady guests. (NACA, *Year Book* 1921)

Mendelsohn was a member of the Boston Chapter and maintained her membership. She apparently did not serve on the board of directors for the Boston Chapter, though other women did. (NACA, *Year Book* 1925) Mendelsohn did attend the Seventh International Cost Conference in Atlantic City on June 14–17, 1926. In the Boston Chapter photo and that of the conference, Mendelsohn was shown. (NACA, *Year Book* 1926)

Mendelsohn became a member of the American Institute of Accountants (Institute) before having received the CPA certificate. Accountants, who had practiced on their own account for five years prior to application and with satisfactory preliminary education, could after examination and recommendation by the board of examiners be elected to member status by the council. Mendelsohn apparently took the Institute's November 1918, membership examination. She maintained her membership in the Institute from 1919. Her participation in the Institute was limited, but so was that of other women CPAs. Her first direct participation appears to have been at the Annual Meeting Banquet on September 17, 1919, in Cincinnati, Ohio. Edward Gore

served as toastmaster and among the principal speakers were Waldron H. Rand, W. Sanders Davies, Robert H. Montgomery, Edward L. Suffern, J. Porter Joplin and Lena E. Mendelsohn. Unfortunately, no comment was made about her speech, nor was the content published. (AIA, 1919 *Year-Book*)

No additional involvement in the Institute is recorded until 1926. Mendelsohn and Maurice E. Peloubet were nominated and elected auditors of the Institute. (AIA, 1926 *Year Book*) She and Peloubet completed their duties in 1927 with a report dated September 7, 1927. (AIA, 1927 *Year Book*) Mendelsohn was the first woman to serve in an official capacity in the Institute.

Mendelsohn became a member of the American Society of Certified Public Accountants in February 1923. She apparently did not hold any office in the organization.

### Views on Public Accounting and Women

Mendelsohn published two articles which provide insight about her views concerning public accounting and opportunities for women. She understood the dynamic nature and future needs of public accounting. While acknowledging the barriers, Mendelsohn was more optimistic than others about the future of women in public accounting. Perhaps her optimism reflected her own success in public accounting and interaction in the profession.

In an article published in *The Journal of Accountancy*, Mendelsohn (1919) wrote about the future of public accounting and the characteristics required of men and women in practice. The article was a thesis prepared for the November 1918, membership examinations of the Institute. She noted that accountancy was a young profession which had, primarily because of the Institute, set high standards, and the men or women who entered accountancy had to expect constant growth in what was considered acceptable achievement. She stated that thinking men and women need no longer conjecture about

women's intellectual abilities. Women were established in the profession." (p. 2) Women entering almost all professions, and they would certainly enter the practice of accounting in greater numbers. A few women had done so successfully, and more were preparing for accounting practice.

Like other professionals, the successful accountant must possess character, integrity, personality, tact, education, ability, technical training, and practical experience. She believed that such basic qualifications were not restricted to men. In addition, the qualified accountant must possess "a mind that can analyze and see through as well as into conditions." (p. 107) She believed that women would measure up to these standards.

The need for and application of an "analytical mind" was the focus of much of the remainder of the paper. She stated that an analytical mind, technical training, and business experience provide "an efficient combination" for success. Women in the practice of accounting had not yet accumulated the complete business experience and had to continue to seek such experience and growth if they were to achieve the required standard of "professional proficiency." Mendelsohn confirmed that women had not in general been able to obtain the degree of business experience they needed for the practice of public accounting. However, she believed that women, with diligence, would in time reach the standard of experience needed.

In 1920, Mendelsohn (1920) published a chapter about public accounting in *Careers for Women*, edited by Catherine Filene. Her initial comments about women entering public accounting were similar to those in the 1919 article. She stated that the Institute welcomed qualified women as members, although few had sought membership.

Mendelsohn described accounting practice, using the common classifications of private and public accounting. She also wrote that "considering everything, one need not be surprised that it has been—and still is—difficult for women to become

have not had the same opportunities to obtain professional training and experience available to men. "So far, very few accounting organizations employ women, even as juniors. In rare cases it may occur that an especially able woman, employed in the office, is sent out on a case." (p. 3)

Mendelsohn stated that:

Perhaps the greatest disadvantage of all lies in the present attitude of the public, due to its lack of confidence in women's business experience and judgment, as related to accountancy in its broad sense. So far as the work itself is concerned, one disadvantage lies in the need of frequent traveling. In office work, on the other hand, there are long hours and hard work. (pp. 5–6)

In noting that many large accounting firms employed women in their offices, Mendelsohn believed that such work in a well organized form could provide an excellent starting point. Opportunity for work in income tax was also available in offices of some accounting firms. Mendelsohn obviously recognized that women faced obstacles, that men did not, to their gaining of the audit experience needed in the practice of accounting. However, her advice was that, although restrictions existed, it was possible for the well-prepared woman to circumvent the barriers. Obviously, women would continue to face difficulties in gaining experience for some time.

Mendelsohn discussed the education required for practice in public accounting. While recognizing that a high-school education or its equivalent was essential, general college training would be helpful. General college studies should include algebra, economics, industrial history of the United States and Europe, money and banking, and other courses of this type.

Study of accounting in a recognized school of accountancy must be completed in addition to high school and any general college study. She considered practical experience, preferably through apprenticeship, to be absolutely essential.

The lack of opportunity to achieve experience through field work was recognized as a major restriction to women practicing public accounting. However, she believed that women could use office work as a path to break into public accounting practice and perhaps have the opportunity to establish clienteles of their own. Although opportunities to gain experience were limited, "a thorough knowledge of bookkeeping and accountancy is something that women can market immediately at a good salary." (p.5)

### Concluding Remarks

Lena E. Mendelsohn ("Lena E. Mendelsohn," 1928) died at her mother's home in Dorchester on June 15, 1928. She had surgery and was thought to be recovering when she contacted pneumonia. Her death was rather sudden, officially of bilateral lobar pneumonia. Lena apparently had never married. Although her death certificate reported her age as 50, she may have been one or two years older. Thus, ended a successful career in the public practice of accounting. Apparently her firm dissolved with her death. No further reference is found of L. E. Mendelsohn & Co.

Mendelsohn was about 35 years old when she established her accounting practice in 1913, which she operated for fifteen years. Her success and professional involvement was significant when one considers the constraints placed on women CPAs during her life. She was the first woman CPA in New Hampshire, about the twenty-fifth woman to receive the CPA certificate in the United States, perhaps the first woman to be a speaker at an Institute annual meeting, first woman to hold a position with the Institute, second woman to publish an

article in the *Journal of Accountancy*, and a charter member of the National Association of Cost Accountants. When compared to the accomplishments of many of her male counterparts, her career and participation in the profession may seem to be precious little. However, considering the prejudices of the times, Mendelsohn accomplished much, and certainly she provided an example to other women who desired to enter public accounting.

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Professor Salvatore A. Gambino has contributed copies of his publications to the Accounting History Research Center. These are:

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- Bibliografia sulla storiografia italiana della ragioneria (with G. Arena) (1975)
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- Il Collegio dei Ragionieri di Messina, alle origini (1883-1889) (1980)
- Bibliografia degli scritti di Fabio Besta (1982)
- Note sull'Istituto Nazionale per l'Incremento degli Studi di Ragioneria (1909-1922) (1984)
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